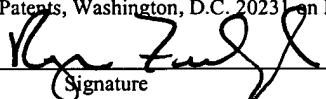




GP 3672

PATENT  
64552.0166

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I hereby certify that I have information and a reasonable basis for belief that this correspondence will be deposited as first-class mail with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on May 3, 1999.



Signature

5-3-99  
Date

# 68 of  
time  
2 mos.  
C. P. 11 + election  
5/20/99

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

§

Richardson, et al.

§

Group No.: 3672

§

Serial No.: 08/877,738

§

Examiner: Schoeppel, Roger

**RECEIVED**

JUN 10 1999

Filed: June 17, 1997

§

Invention: Drilling Method and Apparatus

§

**GROUP 3600**

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED DECEMBER 3, 1998  
AND PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 3, 1998, the applicants submits this response.

05/07/1999 AIBRAHIM 00000044 08877738

01 FC:116

380.00 OP

**Petition for Extension of Time**

The applicant petitions for a two-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 up to and including May 3, 1999. A check for \$380.00 for a two-month extension of time is

included. Applicant hereby authorizes the Patent and Trademark Office to charge deposit account number 02-0383 for any other charges necessary for the filing of this response.

Election

The Examiner has issued a restriction requirement in this action, requiring that the applicant elect for prosecution the claims of Group I (claims 1-3 or 5-7) or the claims of Group II (claim 4). Applicants elect to prosecute in this application the claims of Group 1 (claims 1-3 and 5-7). Please cancel claim 4.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roger Fulghum  
Registration No. 39,678

Baker & Botts, L.L.P.  
910 Louisiana  
One Shell Plaza  
Houston, Texas 77002-4995  
Tel: (713) 229-1707  
Baker & Botts Docket Number: 64552.0166  
Date: May 3, 1999